

Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development

Career Pathways Committee April
Update



OKLAHOMA
Education



Career Pathways Committee

Marissa Lightsey, Chairperson

Executive Director of College and Career
Readiness

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OKLAHOMA
Education



How do you communicate?



What is a Career Pathway?

The term career pathway means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that create a seamless transition from K12, Postsecondary, to Career. A quality career pathway must be system-led involving input from K12, Career Technology Education, Higher Education, and industry for the purpose of building clear road maps for students to explore and prepare for life after high school.

This process must involve all stakeholders with the goal of creating opportunities to explore pathways with intention, view a national career pathway model [here](#).

What is a Career Pathway?

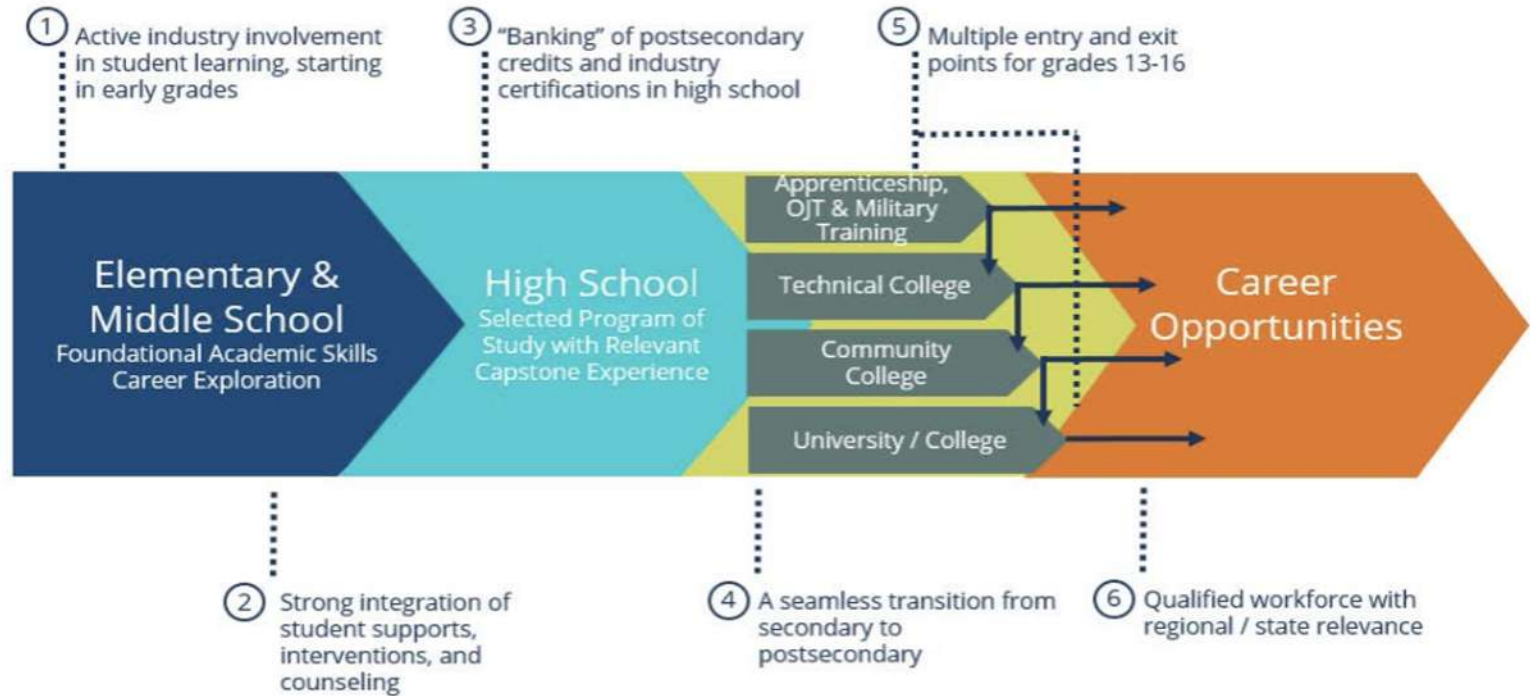


Figure 1: Model of an effective student learning pathway

What are Career Pathway Outcomes?

- ❑ **Active industry involvement in student learning, starting in the early grades:** Encourage and support active industry involvement which begins early on in a student's learning pathway.
- ❑ **Strong integration of student supports, interventions, and advisement:** Establish a collective goal to ensure that all students have access to rigorous standards and great instruction in all courses.
- ❑ **Students' ability to earn credits and industry certification while in high school:** Allow for college credits and industry certifications in high school. Students should demonstrate proficiency as they progress through their learning pathway.
- ❑ **Seamless transition from secondary to postsecondary:** Ensure clear goals for student entry into postsecondary education and career.

ICAP

Creating seamless transitions

Strategic Workgroups

Employer Engagement

Leads: Workforce Board Directors

- Transition Services
- Pre / Apprenticeship Expansion
- Continuing education / career exploration

Postsecondary completion

Lead: Dr. Sarah Wyatt, Tulsa Higher Education Consortium

- Transition Services
- Reducing Barriers
- Early College and Career Readiness
- Continuing education / career exploration

Reducing HS Dropouts

Leads: Shawna Nord, Oklahoma Department of Career Technology (CTE)

Lance Allee, CTE

- Transition Services
- Reducing Barriers
- Early Alerts
- Continuing education / career exploration

Seamless Transitions



Graduating high school can be difficult – taking the next step can be even tougher. After high school, many young Oklahomans find themselves without a job or plan to pursue a credential, certification or college degree. The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act signed into law July 22, 2014 defines this group as Out of School Youth (also known as “Opportunity Youth”) – 16-24-year-olds not in school and with one or more barriers to employment (homelessness, parental responsibilities, disabilities or juvenile or criminal records).

According to the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, youth 16 to 19 years of age have an unemployment rate of 11.5%, while the state unemployment rate for all ages is 3.2%.

Employment rate for the time frame of August 2018 to July 2019: Statewide, not seasonally adjusted.

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Education in 2016, 40,875 students graduated from Oklahoma public high schools. Of those, 18,534, or 45.3%, entered an Oklahoma college or university the following fall. Using a summer bridge program allows for high schools, workforce leaders, and community leaders to increase the amount of high school graduates enrolling in postsecondary programs.



CONNECTING STUDENTS TO OPPORTUNITY

Every student is transitioning after high school, but the question is where? A summer bridge program allows all students the opportunity to transition to next steps using a coordinated network of supports. This summer initiative will serve as a quality co-enrollment program for students needing coordinated additional support for seeking postsecondary education.

CREATING A FRAMEWORK

Senior Year - during a student's senior year, schools may identify students who would be great candidates for Bridge. Schools may identify students who are not enrolled in any pathway, or may have a pathway of focus but with little support. Once a student is identified students will complete a master application created by their local workforce board to learn which WIOA services they qualify for.

Orientation - Create an opportunity for all students accepted will attend a spring orientation to learn about the details of the bridge program.

Workforce Counselor - During orientation connect students with an assigned career advisors to plan meeting dates and advising plans.

Encourage all Bridge students to attend at least two professional development events to include some or all:

- Lunch and learn recruitment lunches / dinners from local businesses
- Networking dinners
- Team building activities
- Work Life balance sessions

ENGAGE POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Do you have a chamber of commerce leader, local bank branch manager, industry leader or human resource professional who can speak to students about the growing professions in your community? Use this [Sample Business / Community Engagement Letter](#) to reach out to community members and allow them to begin recruiting their future workforce. If it's difficult for you to find someone to visit your school, consider a virtual meeting via Skype, Zoho or a similar platform.

- Oklahoma Workforce Boards offer a multitude of programs meant to support career readiness and training for Oklahoma's especially young adults. Consider a partnership between local workforce boards and K12 schools to connect new graduates to transition opportunities. To find your local workforce board visit [here](#)

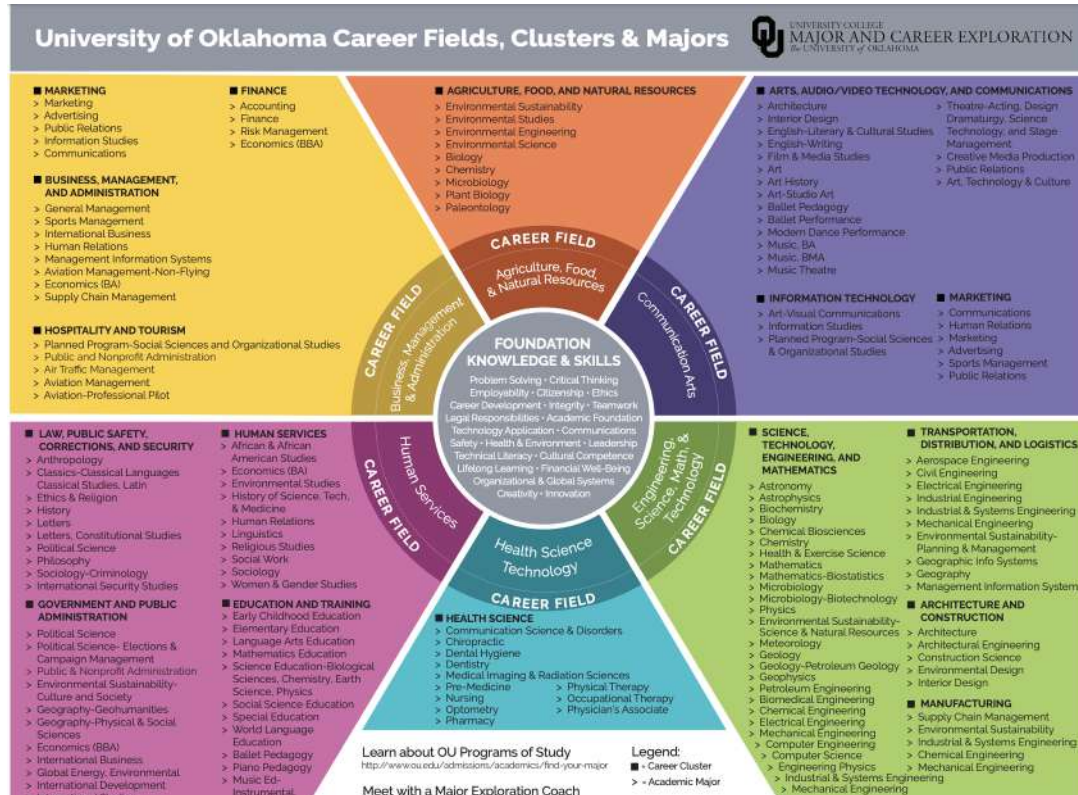
CELEBRATE YOUR STUDENTS!

Share how we're working to prepare Oklahoma kids for the future by using these hashtags: #OKSUMMERBRIDGE, #OKICAP and #OklaEd.

Spread the news on Facebook at [Oklahoma College and Career Readiness](#) or [Oklahoma State Department of Education](#) and on Twitter at @okdsde.



Seamless Transitions



- ❑ Universities can leverage ICAP plans to help students identify majors
- ❑ Provide major / career exploration training to college first year academic advisors

Presenter - Marissa Lightsey

Executive Director of College and Career Readiness

- ❑ Supporting Oklahoma school counselors, educators, and administrators in CCR alignment
- ❑ Technical assistance and coaching in areas of ICAP, academic advisement, college and career readiness, early workforce programming, and comprehensive college and career readiness models.

Experience

- ❑ Higher Education 8 years
- ❑ College and Career Advising (GEAR UP & Upward Bound) 5 years
- ❑ Workforce development 9 years



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